

Mr. Speaker, it is clear—we need to urgently protect voting rights.

That is why I rise today as a member of the Democratic Outreach and Engagement Task Force to challenge this House to do the right thing and protect the sacred right of Americans to vote.

Last summer, the Voting Rights Act celebrated its 50th anniversary. Tragically, five decades after this monumental legislation was passed, the voting rights of Americans are under unprecedented attack.

After the Supreme Court callously and carelessly gutted the Voting Rights Act in its *Shelby v. Holder* decision, Republicans in state legislatures have fallen over themselves to institute a wave of voting restrictions across the country.

Make no mistake, these restrictions amount to nothing more than a modern day poll tax.

We shouldn't be erecting unnecessary and dangerous barriers to the ballot box. We should empower Americans to participate in our democracy.

Yet, time and time again—this Congress and the Judiciary Committee have refused to take action. Instead of protecting our sacred right to vote, this Congress is allowing that right to be eroded.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. It's past time for us to do our job.

Right now, there is bipartisan legislation waiting for action. The Voting Rights Amendment Act (H.R. 885) would reinstate the much needed preclearance statute to ensure that infringements on voting rights are addressed long before Election Day. Long before an American is denied their right to vote, a right that millions have fought and died for—from the Revolution to Neshoba County.

Likewise, the Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 2867) also re-establishes the preclearance system and our discharge petition has 181 signatories—I encourage all of my colleagues to sign it and help us protect the voting rights of all Americans.

However, it's past time that we do more. We must empower voters, every day Americans, to have a stronger, more powerful voice in our democracy.

That's why I am so proud to have co-sponsored the Voter Empowerment Act (H.R. 12) offered by the great Civil Rights champion, Congressman JOHN LEWIS. This legislation would empower voters by modernizing voter registration and utilizing new technologies at the ballot box.

Mr. Speaker, it's past time to pass these bills. It's past time to do our jobs.

As our great drum major for peace and justice, Dr. King, once said: "Give us the ballot, and we will fill our legislative halls with men of goodwill."

Mr. Speaker, let's show the American people some goodwill and allow them to vote, unobstructed.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOBBI AND JIM WILLIAMS

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bobbi and

Jim Williams of Greenfield, Iowa, for being selected as Adair County's 2016 inductees into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Bobbi Williams began her career in 4-H as a member of the Lee Blue Ribbons, the club her great-grandmother organized. She enjoyed home improvement and food and nutrition projects, but most wanted to show livestock. She joined the boys' 4-H club and began showing Hereford steers at the county and state fair. She was leader of her daughter's club, Adair County Wing Walkers, and was honored as a 4-H Alumna in 2010.

Jim Williams has volunteered with a number of 4-H committees and events throughout the years. He has been especially committed to the youth of Adair County, and has dedicated his time to Adair County 4-H Youth Action Committee. He promotes and supports youth activities by encouraging local businesses and individuals to provide whatever support they can.

Mr. Speaker, Bobbi and Jim Williams' efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bobbi and Jim for their achievements and wish them nothing but continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING C-STEM TEACHER AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.'S COMMITMENT TO STEM EDUCATION

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the students, parents, and faculty of C-Stem Teacher and Student Support Services, Inc. for their commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics enrichment, and for participating in my annual Science and Technology Braintrust.

The faculty at C-Stem Teacher and Student Support Services, Inc. are committed to ensuring that our country's youth is exposed to a STEM curriculum, which is paramount to the future of our country. A prevalent theme amongst successful STEM professionals is the curiosity and drive instilled by their teachers at a young age. We must continue to invest in schools that highlight a STEM education, so that all students will have an opportunity to one day be an astrophysicist, doctor, engineer, or a geologist.

Mr. Speaker, C-Stem Teacher and Student Support Services, Inc. is a true advocate of STEM education and deserves recognition for its work. With great pride I can say that because of this organization's commitment to STEM education, our country's youth is gaining the skills needed to compete in a rapidly globalizing world.

#### RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S HUNGER FUND ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Children's Hunger Fund on the celebration of their 25th anniversary.

I am proud of what this organization has accomplished over their long tenure of service to our community. Children's Hunger Fund was established in 1991 by president and founder Dave Phillips. Since then, CHF has delivered food and, ultimately, hope to children and families in need in the U.S. and around the world for 25 years.

Children's Hunger Fund located in Sylmar, is in my district in the San Fernando Valley, the neighborhood right next door to Pacoima, where I grew up.

After the Northridge earthquake struck in 1994, Children's Hunger Fund was instrumental in making sure Valley families had blankets and food.

The help provided by Children's Hunger Fund is felt at home and also around the world. In 1998, CHF sent aid to Chernobyl children and boots and blankets to boys in Siberian prisons.

CHF helped victims and families after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, and after the 2004 tsunami.

The vision started in the San Fernando Valley has been replicated all around the country. In just 25 years, CHF has built a global network of aid, while never forgetting the need in our local communities.

While I regret not being able to attend in person, I am honored to congratulate Children's Hunger Fund on their 25th Anniversary Celebration this Saturday, September 24, 2016.

I hope they will continue their record of delivering food and hope to children and families in the San Fernando Valley and across the world.

#### TRIBUTE TO TED BENSHOOF

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ted Benshoof of Winterset, Iowa for being selected as Madison County's 2016 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame. The Iowa 4-H Foundation hosts the 4-H Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Iowa State Fair each year.

Iowa counties select Hall of Fame inductees for their contributions to the lives of 4-H members and the overall 4-H program. Ted has left a lasting impact on the Madison County 4-H program through his unwavering commitment as a volunteer. On pig weigh-in days at the Madison County 4-H/FFA show, he has been known to go around to each member's home, making sure those who are unable to make it still have the opportunity to weigh-in their entries. His actions are a testament to his